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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,525	02/09/2004	Alexander Gredinberg	SEA-3086.1	1036

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MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN LLP/
SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY LLC
595 SHREWSBURY AVENUE
SUITE 100
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702

EXAMINER

HANNON, THOMAS R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3682

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/775,525

Applicant(s)

GREINBERG ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas R. Hannon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 11-13 and 15-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 11-13 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 12, 13, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 12, it is not understood how there can be relative rotation between the shaft and the sleeve, when claim 11 requires the side of the hydrodynamic bearing means to be fixed to the sleeve, with claim 12 defining the hydrodynamic bearing means as the shaft and thrust plate. This combination requires the shaft and thrust plate to be fixed to the sleeve, which would render the device inoperable. The hydrodynamic bearing means of claim 11 should be more fully defined to overcome this rejection. With respect to claim 13, it is unclear how the counterplate cup has "sleeves that are fitted on a reduced diameter section of the sleeve." Claim 15 lacks a proper antecedent for "the cup side". Claim 16 lacks a proper antecedent for "the thrust plate", "the gap", and "the two surfaces". Claim 17 is indefinite as it is not understood how the subject matter further limits the scope of claim 1.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by

Nakazeki et al.

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Note Figure 1 showing a spindle motor for use in a disc drive (column 5, lines 13-17) comprising a shaft (2) supporting a sleeve (7) and a hub (3) for relative rotation, the hub supporting one or more discs (D) for rotation, and hydrodynamic bearing means (6) for supporting the hub for rotation, and wherein a region of the side of the hydrodynamic bearing means is fixed to an outer surface of the sleeve (7) by adhesive (column 6, line 62).

Claims 2-5 are allowed.

Claims 13, 15, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant's arguments filed January 18, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The objection to the Drawing is withdrawn in view of the replacement sheets. The objection to the specification is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the specification.

With respect to the rejection on Nakazaki, Applicant states that "Nowhere does the Nakazaki reference disclose each and every element of the claimed invention". Applicant has amended claim 1 and argues that Nakazaki does not teach "a counterplate cup having a base defining one surface of a second bearing thrust and defining a gap therewith, and having upraised sides tightly fitted over an outer surface of the sleeve, and wherein a region of the side of the cup is fixed to an outer surface of the sleeve by adhesive or epoxy." Nakazaki does however clearly anticipate this language with the bearing shown in Figure 1 having counterplate cup 6 having base 13 and upraised sides, with the sleeve 7 adhered to the housing. See column 6, lines 61-64.

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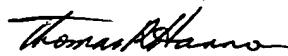
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas R. Hannon whose telephone number is (703) 308-2691. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (6:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Thomas R. Hannon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3682

trh